

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 274339
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FOR LOS DELEGATION

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM MADRID NOV 14:

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MADRID 08898

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS, EWWT, SP

SUBJECT: SPANISH VIEWS ON LAW OF THE SEA PROCEEDINGS

REF: STATE 239529; STATE 238616; STATE 254726;
STATE A-4093, 7/11/77

1. EMBOFF MET WITH AMBASSADOR EDUARDO IBANEZ Y GARCIA DE VELASCO, HEAD OF SPAIN'S DELEGATION TO LOS CONFERENCE, NOVEMBER 14 TO PASS ON COPY OF AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON'S OCTOBER 4 TESTIMONY AND TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON CURRENT LOS PROCEEDINGS. IBANEZ HAS BEEN OUT OF MADRID FOR PAST FEW WEEKS ATTENDING VARIOUS FISHING CONFERENCES IN OTTAWA, LONDON AND MEXICO.

2. AMBASSADOR IBANEZ EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR COPY OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OCTOBER 4 TESTIMONY WHICH HE SAID HE WAS EAGER TO READ, HAVING HEARD THAT CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAD SWITCHED POSITION TO ONE OF SUPPORT FOR DEEP SEABED LEGISLATION. IBANEZ SAID HE UNDERSTOOD US FEELING THAT FORCE OF EVENTS WOULD SOON OVERTAKE LOS PROCEEDINGS AND THAT SOME MINING OF SEABEDS WOULD BECOME FACT, REGARDLESS OF LEGISLATION. NEVERTHELESS HE HOPED THAT US LEGISLATION

ON SUBJECT WOULD NOT HAVE NEGATIVE EFFECT ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION. SPECIFICALLY IBANEZ ASKED IF EMBASSY COULD PROVIDE SUMMARY OF CURRENT PROPOSALS BEFORE CONGRESS, INCLUDING METCALF AND WEICKER BILLS WHICH IBANEZ SAID CONGRESSMAN MURPHY HAS INTRODUCED.

3. WITH REGARD TO FUTURE LOS MEETINGS, IBANEZ SAID HE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN US VIEWS ON PROCEDURES FOR INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING IN FEBRUARY 1978 IN GENEVA. SPECIFICALLY IBANEZ ASKED IF US FAVORED A RETURN TO EVENSEN PROPOSALS, A DEBATE OF ICNT PROPOSALS, OR START FROM SCRATCH. FURTHER, IBANEZ WONDERED IF US WOULD FAVOR A FORM OF PLENARIES FOR NEXT SESSION, IN LIEU OF WORK IN SMALL COMMITTEE GROUPS WHICH HAD MADE POSSIBLE THE UNSATISFACTORY ICNT. DURING RECENT FISHING MEETING IN LONDON, AMBASSADOR IBANEZ DISCUSSED LOS WITH NEWLY APPOINTED HEAD OF UK DELEGATION WHO MENTIONED THAT PLENARY SESSIONS MIGHT BE MORE PRODUCTIVE DURING NEXT MEETING.

4. COMMENT: REQUEST THAT EMBASSY BE PROVIDED WITH STATUS OF LOS REVIEW, AS WELL AS INFO ON RELATED BILLS PENDING BEFORE CONGRESS. AMBASSADOR IBANEZ ALSO ASKED FOR NAMES OF ANY NEWLY APPOINTED MEMBERS OF US DELEGATION (STATE 254726) TO REPLACE THOSE WHO HAVE DEPARTED. STABLER UNQUOTE VANCE

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